THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 39. SATURDAY. DECEMBER 11TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

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MEETINGS LIST.

Friday, Dec. 10th.

Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.
Beckton Rd., 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Walshe, Miss Manicom.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, Dec. 11th.

Chrisp St. and Grundy St., 3 p.m.,
Morning Lane and Well St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.
Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Sunday, Dec. 12th.

Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Mr. Atlee, Mrs. Bouvier.
Osborne St., 11.30 a.m., Miss Lynch.
"Whitehouse," 11 a.m., Miss Manicom, Mrs. Holloway.
Bow Women's Hall, International League, East London Branch, 7 p.m. Miss Fraser Smith, Mr. Cyon. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.

Monday, Dec. 13th.

Follett St., 6 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.
Custom House, 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Beamish.

Tuesday, Dec. 14th.

Whitecross Street, 1.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Holloway.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mr. Ch. Gray.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Miss Lynch.
175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.

Wednesday, Dec. 15th.

Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Manicom.
53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m., Miss Smyth.

Thursday, Dec. 16th.

175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Miss Beamish and others.
55 Fife Road, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Parsons.

Friday, Dec. 17th.

Piggott St., 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Manicom.
Beckton Rd., 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.
Bow Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., International Mediation Debate.

Saturday, Dec. 18th.

Well Street and Morning Lane, 3.30 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Beamish
Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Nursery Children's Party, Old Ford Road.
Christmas Dinner, 400 Old Ford Rd.

Sunday, Dec. 19th.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Drake and others.
Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Mr. Sorenson.

MEETING of the East London Branch of the International League.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12th, 7 p.m.

Speakers:

Mr. CYON—"Women's Suffrage in Finland and its effects on Working Women."

Miss FRASER SMITH.

Chair ... ... Mrs. BOUVIER.

Songs ... Mr. CHAPPELOW.

A LIMITED NUMBER OF BOUND COPIES of the FIRST VOLUME of the **WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT** WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY. PRICE 6s. 6d. ORDER EARLY.

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GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

BERNARD SHAW AT PORTMAN ROOMS.

The daily papers reported the war-like part of Mr. Bernard Shaw's speech in such detail that we may confine ourselves to the important part, relating to the "Nation's Vitality," which was the subject of the lecture.

The comparison of men killed in the present War with infant mortality gave some startling figures: In one year of War 75,000 men, or 2½ per cent., were killed; 100,000 babies, or 12½ per cent., die before they are a year old. New Zealand, by a little forethought, has reduced the infant mortality to 5 per cent., and a town in France, Villiers le Duc, where the Mayor is also a doctor, occupies the unique position of not having lost one child during that Mayor's ten years of office. These two instances, Mr. Shaw said, proved *us* to be murderers!

Mr. Shaw advocated that knighthoods should be given to the Mayors of the towns which have the lowest infant mortality. We should be ready to do this if we were an intelligent people; but we are not!

Topics of the day—such as the Conference between Trade Union representatives and Asquith, McKenna, and Runciman—were used by Mr. Shaw to show the utter futility of expecting help from those placed in power, so long as public offices are conferred on the wrong men. He quoted Lloyd George as a case in point, saying that he should be made Minister for Foreign Affairs. Neither as Chancellor of the Exchequer nor Minister of Munitions had he shown any ability; in fact, his Munitions Act had brought the country to the verge of revolution!

In conclusion, Mr. Shaw remarked that it was rather hard to require war to wake us up to our scandalous neglect both of infants and growing children. He rather damped the applause which his eloquence deserved by looking at his watch and saying: "Ten babies have died since I began to speak—nine of them have been murdered!"

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was in the chair, then called on Dr. Tchaykovsky, whose appeal on behalf of the "Mother's Arms" and Baby Clinics realised £30 11s. Promises were also made of two £1 subscriptions and a cheque.

An Oxford man sent in 10s. to help to defray the cost of changing from one hall to the other, which had to be done at a day's notice. However, in spite of this change, the meeting was most successful.

The E.L.F.S. tenders most grateful thanks to Mr. Bernard Shaw.

WOMEN'S CALL TO ACTION.

It is reported that popular discontent is growing in Germany and that rioting is of frequent occurence. On October 30th, several hundred Socialist women marched to the Berlin office of the German Socialist paper *Vorwärts* and presented the following manifesto to the Socialist Party:

We come at the request of the most active women comrades in Berlin, and with the support of the Berlin Socialist women as a whole, in order to give the Party Executive and the Party Council direct information of the state of feeling in our groups, and of our wishes and demands. For it appears that the elected representatives of the Berlin comrades on the Party Council are very far from reporting, voting and acting according to the opinions of those whom they represent.

It is well known to you that here, as in other places, there is great bitterness of feeling, owing to the rise in prices. This bitterness has led to a number of riots among the unorganised, and among the organisedt oo it has reached a serious pitch.

But the question of the rise in the cost of living does not stand alone. On the contrary, it is most closely connected with the whole war policy of the Government, and therefore cannot be solved by those who are in agreement with the other actions of the Government, and with the ends that it thinks to reach by the War.

As the Government is aiming in the War at the future economic exploitation and political oppression of districts and nations which are at present not German, it can naturally endure and promote the increasing exploitation and oppression of its own people during the War.

The Government leaves the iron and coal magnates, and especially landlowners, a free hand in face of the rise in cost of all important necessaries of life, and only makes a few delusive regulations with regard to the middle and small traders. It is true that the Party leaders have already protested against the usurious profits made by producers and traders, both in their memorial, and in discussions with the Government. But seeing that all these protests have been practically without effect, it is necessary not only to repeat them, but to reinforce them with other methods. Before all, it is necessary to win the freedom of the press, which is essential to the fight against profit-mongering in the necessaries of life. The censor has just lately gagged the press more tightly than ever on this subject. Several provincial party journals have been temporarily suppressed for articles on the question of the cost of living. In Berlin, the Chief Commandant, Herr von Kessel, has himself ordered the press to soothe the people by praising the Government's measures and refraining from criticism. Every complaint against the Agrarians is held by the Berlin censorship to be a breach of the "truce" and is threatened with punishment.

Under the protection of the censorship, traders and producers can comfortably pursue their exploitation of the people. The fight against prices must therefore also be a fight against the censorship. *Here too, protests behind closed doors are insufficient.* The Party leaders must make *public protests* against the censorship, and the Socialist members must be asked to make a sharp criticism of the

(Continued on page 380, col. 2.)

LORD DERBY'S SCHEME.

Mr. Bentham: Will my Rt. Hon. friend see that the starred lists are gone through and corrected before the voluntary system is finally abandoned?

The Prime Minister: It is very dangerous to answer supplementary questions. All I can say is that I will take it into consideration.

TO ADVERTISE the CHRISTMAS NUMBER of the DREADNOUGHT.

POSTER PARADES

From International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, W.C.

Friday, December 17th, 11.30 a.m.,
Saturday, December 18th, 3 p.m.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
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Vol. II. No. 39—Sat., Dec. 11th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

SIDELIGHTS on the SITUATION.

In the debate on the Rent Bill, Mr. Walter Long was very closely questioned as to whether ground landlords may increase the rent where the ground lease expires during the war and a new lease is given.

Mr. Walter Long replied that the Bill does not prevent the ground landlord from raising the rent!

The ground landlord is the rich and powerful bloodsucker who is able to make a steady drain upon the hard work and enterprise of every other section of the community. Already the ground landlord is favoured by the law at every point.

This latest piece of protection for him means that if the ground lease comes to an end during the war, he can raise the rent as much as he chooses. The owner of the building that has been erected on the land, is usually a comparatively poor person. As Sir Tudor Walters said: "rich men are not foolish enough to invest their money in small house-property." The poor man who owns the house is not to be allowed to raise the rent, even though the ground landlord raises the ground rent until it is higher than the house rent.

Mr. Long said that if the Law Officers should decide that the Bill, as drafted, would prevent the ground landlord from raising the rent at the expiration of the lease, the Government would introduce an amendment to enable him to do so.

This is because the landed interests are powerfully represented in the Government.

There is another point in the Bill, which, though less clear than this, appears also to have been designed, to give preference to the wealthy. If there is a mortgage on the house property by deed, the mortgagee cannot raisethe interest or call the money in during the war; but if the house owner has simply got a mortgage by depositing title deeds, the Bill will not apply.

Mr. Long's defence of this was that in the first case, the mortgage is intended to be of a permanent character; but in the second, the mortgage is a temporary advance. He said that institutions make a practice of lending money in the second way, and that "the whole principle underlying this business, is that their cash shall be liquid." He warned the House that if it were not "careful and cautious it might really, although with the best intentions," do infinitely more harm than good, because "the whole of our trade and commerce is carried on on credit principles, ... and if we do anything which strikes at the security of the great banking institutions, we may bring the whole edifice down with a run."

It is with such mysterious words that Cabinet Ministers warn off women and Members of Parliament, when the great monied interests are threatened!

The U. D. C. Meetings.

Mr. Tennant recited to the House of Commons a tissue of falsehoods purporting to explain the breaking up of the Union of Democratic Control Meeting in the Memorial Hall. It is extraordinary that he should have been willing to make himself the vehicle for such a dishonest concoction.

When the lies were exploded, he put forward a defence that was really painful in its childish irresponsibility.

He said, "I had to back up my military, whom I hope I shall never desert in any matter of this kind, when any allegation is made against them."

Is it in this spirit that the representatives of Great Britain conduct the secret diplomacy which controls our relations with other countries and decides for all of us the fateful issues of peace and War?

Sir John Simon and the "Times."

On Tuesday, November 30th, the House of Commons wasted seven hours discussing the attack of the Northcliffe Press on Sir John Simon. The sordid pettiness of the whole matter fills us with disgust.

There was much talk of "honour," —there frequently is amongst those in whom honour is not!

The nett result of the talk is that Sir John Simon declares that the whole trend of the matter which is published in the *Times* and the *Daily Mail* has a prejudicial effect on British interests abroad. Yet though, after suppressing the *Globe*, he said: "so perish all who such crimes commit," Sir John Simon does nothing against the powerful Northcliffe papers, but only punishes the *Globe*, six little Irish papers, and the *Labour Leader*.

We consider that the freedom of the Press should be preserved all round.

In the course of the debate it came out that Mr. Masterman is paid £1,200 a year for presiding over a department which provides the Government with clippings from the foreign press, and that Mr. Muir is paid £500 a year as second in command.

We think £1,200 a year a ridiculously exorbitant sum to pay for making press cuttings, and if this is all that Mr. Masterman has to do, we must pronounce his appointment to be a scandalous piece of jobbery.

Cabinet Ministers' Economy Class.

Mr. Asquith hurried away from the Cabinet Ministers' economy class for workers, on December 2nd, to attend the extravagant festivities arranged for the wedding of his daughter. But before going he said that about 4,500,000 working people—roughly, one-third of the workers—have received an average increase in wages of 3s. a week. He admitted a rise in food of 40 per cent., rent 2 per cent., fuel and light 25 per cent., clothing 30 per cent., and other items 15 per cent.—a total rise in the cost of living of 30 per cent.

These are Mr. Asquith's own figures. We consider that he understates the rise in prices, but it seems to us that his own figures are strong enough to have made him feel ashamed to go to the workers, to ask them to abstain from pressing for more wages.

Of course it is true, as Mr. Asquith indicated, that many workers have been employed overtime; but *overtime* means *over-strain*. Ordinary full-time work in a factory is more arduous than it should be, and overtime is expensive to the worker, and in the long-run, does not pay.

Mr. McKenna complained that the high wages earned by skilled engineers and others are making it harder for the poorer workers to live at all. He explained this as being partly due to the fact that the workers who are earning high wages live a little above the bare level of necessity, and thus being able to consume more than is absolutely essential they give profiteers an opportunity to force the prices up. He also said that if the wage of the worker who produces a commodity is raised the price of the commodity must also rise, and poor people have to pay.

Mr. McKenna is fond of giving lectures on economics, but we must ask him to carry his analogy a stage further. If the paying of better wages to the comparatively well-paid orker increases the burden of the ill-paid worker, how unjustly heavy must be the burden which is placed on the workers by the people who produce nothing at all, and, who yet live at a much higher level of comfort than ever falls to the lot of the skilled artisan!

Mr. Runciman made various excuses to explain why the Board of Trade had not kept down the prices of food, and fuel and then went on to say that the Government had declared "quite clearly that it would not allow the situation to be exploited." As a result of this he said, "food prices reached their normal level." But why did not the Government continue to say, "quite clearly" that they must remain normal?

In reply to questions by Miss Macarthur, Mr. McKenna expressed the usual hollow sympathy for sweated women workers.

A resolution was moved that the speeches of the Cabinet Ministers should be commended to the "earnest and favourable consideration" of Trade Unionists.

The *Manchester Guardian* says that the resolution was greeted with "derisive laughter;" but most of the movers of amendments were quelled into withdrawing them. Mr. Bramley, of the Furniture Trades, stuck to his guns, and moved an amendment pledging Trade Union assistance to the Government "in placing the financial situation upon a sound footing, on a legislative basis of equal sacrifice for all."

Mr. John Ward, M.P., declared that this was a pacifist amendment which would mean "the loss of 50,000 British lives."

On hearing this, only 40 delegates voted for the amendment, out of more than 1,000 delegates.

What a mad world we live in!

The Munitions Act.

It is announced that Mr. Lloyd George is about to introduce a Bill to amend the Munitions Act. In our view, the greater part of the Act should be repealed, indeed we should like to see the whole of it swept away.

The munitions tribunals give what are veritably "Prussian" powers over the workers, to the employer, whose business it is to make money out of them, and to the Government which, drawn as its members are from the employing classes, always takes the employers' part, except when the workers are powerful enough to *compel* consideration.

In our opinion payment by piece rate is as strong a form of pressure as it is wise to put upon the workers, even from the point of view of continuous output. But if any form of control, other than the economic pressure which is always present, is insisted upon, let it be control by a tribunal of the workers themselves. And let the odious system of discharge certificates be abolished!

We are told that by his amendments to the Munitions Act, Mr. Lloyd George intends to enforce the payment of a £1 a week minimum to women in munition factories who are employed on men's work.

Repeated experience has taught us not to place any reliance on Mr. Lloyd George's promises, until they are fulfilled. The Minister of Munitions has been dallying with the question of women's wages since June, without any apparent result.

In any case we must reiterate our contention that the pound a week minimum, dangled before the eyes of women by Mr. Lloyd George, does not meet the case.

The minimum time wage of the man who is an unskilled labourer in a munition factory varies in different districts from 25s. a week to 26s. 6d.

The women to whom it is said that £1 a week *may* be paid, will be replacing these men, and also others who are skilled and who have been earning much more than a labourer's wage.

Of course we are told that the £1 a week is only to last during a short period of training, after which women are to be put on *the same piece rates as men*.

But months have passed, and still the vast majority of women munition workers have not attained even to this miserable £1 a week. Moreover, the Munitions Act already provides that women replacing men shall get men's pay, *if they are employed on piece work*, and this law is flagrantly broken in most cases—indeed we have not been able to obtain evidence that it has been observed in a single instance.

The Men's Trade Union leaders are relying meanwhile on the promises of the Government, that after the War is done, women shall no longer be employed in the engineering shops. The Government easily enters into promises, but it is an adept at finding loopholes of escape when the time comes for the promises to be kept.

When the employment of the £1 a week women, whose wage they are now sanctioning, makes it impossible for men who ask more than £1 to get any work, Trade Unionists will find themselves in a curious plight! Already the *Engineer*, which speaks from the employers' standpoint, is declaring that the introduction of women's labour can be used to reduce the rates of payment for men, because it has been proved "that the men are paid too much for work which can be done without previous training."

We must point out that the fact that their father's work can be done without training will not fill the children's stomachs!

Now, whilst labour is scarce, Trade Unionists should say: "If women come to work in our trade they must be engaged under the same conditions as men, and must receive the same pay. Unless this is conceded we refuse to work where women are employed!"

This stipulation should have been made before a single woman was allowed to start work in place of any man. It is not yet too late. The men in the engineering shops can make a firm stand on this point tomorrow, if they will.

Greece.

The pressure which is being brought upon Greece to abandon her neutrality and throw herself into the War on the side of our country and her Allies, is said to be justified by military necessity. But we must abandon all pretence of acting according to principle if we admit that plea.

Let us choose.

There are two courses open to Great Britain, either to fight for supremacy as the biggest bully in Europe, or to endeavour to build up a more brotherly relationship between the people of the various countries, and the establishment of a fair system of arbitration between nation and nation, so that no people shall fear violence from another, or seek to do violence as a means to secure redress. There is also a third course, a course of shilly-shally and drift, without any definite method, the mainstay of which is bluff and which often comes to bullying and fighting in the end.

Undoubtedly the way of human friendship and understanding is the way of progress and the woman's movement must strive towards it.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

"DREADNOUGHT" BY POST
4s. 4d. per annum.

M.P.'S ON RENT BILL.

"By preventing a lender from calling in his money you may embarrass him. . . . I would ask whether some provision might not be made, whereby advances might be made, say by the Treasury or the Bank of England to the mortgagee."—*Mr. David Mason.*

"With the present limit of 25,000, the Bill would be of little use in Ireland. Most of the towns there are what you call in England villages with a population of 1,000 or 3,000.—*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*

"There is a great deal of sympathetic nonsense talked about the mortgagee in this connection. It is said what a hardship it is that the mortgagee cannot increase his interest on his mortgage, and that if he had money at his disposal, he could invest it in War Loan, which is paying much higher interest. Yes, but suppose he had invested his money in a gilt-edged security before the commencement of the war, he cannot calmly request the Government to increase the rate of interest. He cannot go to a railway company and say: 'Will you increase my rate of interest. . . .?' "—*Sir T. Walters.*

An Incitement to Mob Law.

"I should have thought myself that the force of public opinion brought to bear on any landlord who excessively raised his rents, would be quite sufficient to cause him to alter his decision . . . . the landlord who did it would have his windows broken."—*Sir Francis Lowe.*

"There is nothing to prevent a landlord ejecting a tenant who may be perfectly willing to pay the prewar rent."—*Mr. Barnes.*

"How it is possible, where there is no moral distinction between the rent or interest raising in different areas, to set up any geographical distinction I cannot imagine."—*Mr. Prothero.*

"This measure is being supported on all the benches of this House because there is not a man hardly who dares get up and say a word against it."—*Sir W. Essex.*

Applications for eviction orders were sought against Councillors George Smith and George Kerr of the Glasgow Corporation, who have joined the strike against increased rent.

The Sheriff postponed the application for a fortnight in view of the Rent Bill.

It will be remembered that Councillor Kerr was suspended from the Council for a day for protesting against the cancelling of the Town Hall for a No Conscription meeting recently.

Mrs. S——, who, as we reported last week, received a most impertinent letter from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association in Bow, has since had the following letter:—

159 Bow Road, Bow, E,
30th November, 1915.

COWL & Co., Solicitors,
Madam,

We are instructed by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, Parish Hall, Bromley-by-Bow, to apply to you for payment of the sum of £3 5s. 0d. owing by you to them, and to inform you that unless we receive that amount together with 3s. 7d., our charges, or satisfactory terms of settlement be made with us at or before 12 o'clock noon Thursday next, the 2nd prox., we shall have no alternative but to commence proceedings against you for the recovery thereof, without further notice and at your expense.

Yours obediently,
(Signed) COWL & Co.

Mr. S., who writes to us from the Crystal Palace sea draft, says:—

"The main reason I am writing to you, is to ask if you could possibly manage to use your influence to stop these people suing her, as I think she has had enough to knock her over just lately. If I were at home it would be a trifling matter to pay £3 5s. 0d., but as I am now, it appears a gigantic amount. What money my wife gets from the Government is only an existing allowance."

As we go to press we learn that our efforts to stop this prosecution have succeeded.

The soldiers at Whitley Camp held a meeting to protest against the ejectment of Mrs. Gunter of Godalming, whose husband is a prisoner in Germany. They decided to organise a subscription. People from other sources, who subscribed, viz.: "A Landlord," "A Working Woman," "A Working Man," and others, had already done what they could to help.

Later on when Mr. Anderson raised the matter in the House of Commons, Mr. Tennant took credit for *ascertaining* the fact that, though the woman and her children were to have been turned out into the street, kindly people had taken them in, and safeguarded the household goods and are providing another house for the little family.

Thanks in this case are due, not to the authorities, but to the warm-hearted neighbours and sympathetic soldiers at Whitley Camp.

EQUAL PAY!

We take the following from the *Daily Chronicle*:—

CASHIER (Temporary) for Metropolitan Borough Council (East London); if male, must be ineligible for H.M. Forces. Previous experience with large firm desirable. Wages, male 50s., female 35s. per week. Write 2195, Sell's Advertising Offices, Fleet-st, E.C.

Nothing like equal pay!

The *New Statesman* in an article on Women's Wages, makes the following trenchant remarks: "For trade unions to try to act by keeping women out of the trades, is not only unfair to women, but in the conditions which result from the war will be doomed to failure. Under these circumstances there is only one adequate defence for labour—namely, to insist that women's and men's scales of wages shall be the same. It is no good talking about 'equal pay for equal work,' for that much-abused doctrine provides too many loopholes for the evasive employer. In whatever trade or occupation women's labour can be used as alternative to men's, the trade union will have to fight for a minimum time wage which, after any necessary probationary period for either sex, is the same for man and woman. The critical nature of that fight must be obvious to anyone. It can only be won by a reversal of the ordinary trade unionist's attitude towards women's labour, and by his late awakening to the elementary fact that it is only by organising her labour that his own organisation can be protected."

Men's Work not Men's Wages.

Women workers, H.M. Gun Wharf, Portsmouth:—Tent repairing, 47½ hours per week, one hour for dinner; machinist, 16s. 9d. per week; needle hand, 13s. 9d. per week.

Tram Conductors:—15s. to 22s. The girls are on duty till midnight.

Post Office Sorting and Delivery:—18s.; eight hours a day and Sunday work.

Gas Company, Changing Mantles:—£1 per week.

Portsmouth Dockyard, Women Clerks:—17s. to 25s.; (48-hour week), shorthand and typing necessary.

Southampton Cable Works (private firm):—9s. 9d. for 54-hour week (this is wicked).

(*From our Portsmouth correspondent.*)

The Hoxton coroner, recently held an inquest on a three months old baby who died of malnutrition. The child's father was an engraver who lost his work through the War and went to sea. The child's mother had no news of her husband for some months, and then learnt that he had been shipwrecked and badly burnt. In the meantime she had had to part with her home and had got work as a waitress, earning only 9s. a week to keep herself and three children. The baby had wasted and died. The coroner gave the woman £1.

Mr. Theodore Dodd, a great authority on the Poor Law, points out that the Guardians might have given out relief and medical relief in this case. But women do not want to be driven to the Poor Law!

E.L.F.S. GENERAL MEETING, Monday, December 20th, at 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m.

Business:

Arrangements for our Annual Conference.

The Votes for Women Situation; Political Campaign in the New Year.

Members are asked to pay up their Subscriptions before the end of the year.

High prices are telling very hardly upon Old Age Pensioners. The Poplar Mayor's Committee recently asked the Government's permission to pay 3s. a week extra to the old people out of the Prince of Wales's Fund, but the Government refused to agree. One old couple living in Bromley-by-Bow are typical of many more. The husband is 88, the wife 86. They have 10s. a week between them. Two shillings goes in rent; they have to pay 2s. a cwt. for coal—that is *at least* 2s. a week. Thus there is only 6s. a week to keep the two old people in food, clothes, soap, and other necessaries. What sort of Christmas dinner will they be able to buy?

BROTHERHOOD CHURCH, Southgate Road, Kingsland, N.

GRAND SOCIAL, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 1915. Vocal & Instrumental Music. Short Speeches. Fairyland Sketch. Refreshments.

Tickets 6d. Commence 7 p.m. All proceeds towards the E.L.F.S. "Infant Welfare Fund."

NO WOMEN ON TRIBUNALS!

In reply to Mr. Dickinson, Lloyd George stated that no women have been appointed to sit on any Munitions Tribunal. And why not.

Women's Cases Brought Up.

At the Birmingham Munitions Tribunal recently, W. Probert, who was summoned for being away from work on October 16th, 17th, and 18th, explained that on the first day he felt tired, having been working eighty hours a week. On the other days his wife, who had a baby six weeks old, was ill. He admitted that he did not send notice to the firm that he was going to be away. He did not think about sending a post-card. He could not read.

The President said it was clear the man had committed a breach of the rules, but as his general record was fairly good, the case would be adjourned for a month, the man having promised not to neglect his work again.

A young married woman, Lily Whitehead, Hockley Street, complained that her employers, a firm at Erdington, had unreasonably withheld her certificate of discharge. Her hours were from seven in the morning to 9.30 at night, with only an hour and a quarter's break, and it took her an hour to get to work in the morning and an hour to get home at night. This did not allow her to get her meals properly, and she could not attend to her child.

The Court held that a married woman with a child should not be tied down to such hours if she wished to leave, and granted the certificate.

A certificate was also granted to a 17-years-old girl, Elsie Cain, who was working the same hours.

A selection of toys from the E.L.F.S. Toy Factory were on view at the Sunday afternoon conference at Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, N., on Sunday last. Many people were by this means of advertisement able to see for themselves the good quality of work done, at the lowest possible prices to buyers. The toys will be on sale next Saturday evening, at the Social to be held in aid of our "Infant Welfare" service, and at the conference on the following Sunday afternoon, at 3.30. The DREADNOUGHT is also on sale in the church and outside, every conference afternoon. We are very grateful to the Rev. F. R. Swan, who arranged to give us these facilities.

The *Daily Express* is trying to work up rowdy and ignorant young men to make a disturbance at the Brotherhood Church, on Sunday afternoons. The name "Brotherhood" is evidently an offence to that paper in these days of strife. We hope that friends will be on the look out to quell disorder should anyone be so foolish as to act on the advice of the *Daily Express*.

We are asked to state that "the Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U," adopted the following resolutions at St. George's Vestry Hall, on Saturday, December 4th:—

"That recognising the international character of the Woman's Movement, and the loyalty woman of all nations owe to their equally unenfranchised sisters, it can form no part of the policy of 'the Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.' to recruit men for war, or adopt any other purely militarist action."

"That this Conference of 'the Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.' regards the suggestion of change in the franchise basis without the inclusion of women as a breach of the Prime Minister's pledge and that of his Government and of the political amnesty, and it calls for an immediate measure enfranchising women."

The Woman's International League meeting on the "Woman's Case against Conscription" which was to have been held in the Memorial Hall on December 1st, has been transferred to the Portman Rooms, Baker Street on Thursday, December 16th, at 8 p.m. The speakers are Mrs. Barton, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Marshall and Miss Royden with Mrs. Swanwick in the Chair. Admission is free to women only, and there are a few reserved seats, price 2s. 6d. and 1s., which may be obtained from the Meetings' Secretary, 12 Little College Street, Westminster, S.W.

THE ANTI-SUFFRAGIST IS A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY! This is proved to the hilt in the new pamphlet issued by the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage, "Christian Chivalry: the Racial Aspect of Women's Enfranchisement." An absolutely new socialogical, historical and industrial presentation of "what is, and what might be of the utmost importance to students and advocates of the cause of women's equality and freedom. Post free 1½d., from Prof. F. Merrick, 12 Parsonage Road, Withington, Manchester. *De luxe* Christmas Edition, 3½d.—[Advt.]

TRADE UNION NOTES.

By ALICE MACLENAN.

Negotiations are pending between the Amalgamated Society of Co-operative Operatives and the Oldham and Eccles Co-operative Societies for the settlement of the dispute that has arisen in regard to the substitution of women for men in the co-operative grocery department at Oldham.

The employees' society demands that the women shall have the same wage as the men, and strike notices were sent in at the end of November; but there is every reason to believe that an amicable agreement will shortly be arrived at.

Equal pay for women replacing men is already in operation at co-operative societies in Bradford, Brightside, and Carbrook, and at several societies in the Midlands.

The equal pay campaign is to be extended to Scotland, the disparity there between the wages paid to men and women being greater than in England. One society is paying a woman with ten years' experience in the grocery trade only 16s. a week.

When the demands of the grocery employees have been obtained it is believed that, as a result, women in the drapery departments will become dissatisfied with their obviously low wages. A movement for improvement in this direction is anticipated by the A.U.C.E. Meanwhile, membership increases by leaps and bounds.

When the box-making trade became scheduled as a sweated industry, under the Trade Board Act, a rate of 3d. per hour was fixed, and calculated to lift women-workers "just above the poverty line." It is generally acknowledged that the cost of living has increased *at least* 30 per cent. Yet the Trade Board has fixed an advance of only one farthing, equal to 7½ per cent., to meet the increase of 30 per cent. This plunges the women in this trade considerably *below* the poverty line. Box-making is one of the few expanding trades, and a great scarcity of qualified workers exists. If the women would only organise, I am informed on competent authority that a living wage could easily be established by their own power of combination.

By recent agreement between the Workers' Union and the Midland Employers' Federation, the £1 minimum recommended by the Ministry of Munitions is to apply to women munitioneers now doing work which prior to the War was done by men. For all female workers a minimum scale of wages is to be paid, which means to many an increase of several shillings. It will be obvious to those readers who read in THE DREADNOUGHT of November 13th the scandalously low wages that are paid to women at Kynochs, near Birmingham, how necessary was a wage movement in this area.

The National Union of Printing and Paper Workers is making great progress in all parts of the United Kingdom, particularly in towns such as Liverpool, Bristol, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. In some of these towns minimum rates have been established by agreement with employers. In many cases advances in women's wages represent an increase of 5s. and 6s. a week. In Liverpool alone some hundreds of girls and women have been benefited by the activities of this Union.

Paper mill workers all over the North of England have been in receipt of a high price bonus—ranging from 1s. to 2s. 6d.—for many months. Although earnings of women in this trade are comparatively high, numbers have benefited under this bonus scheme, a scheme which is infinitely to be preferred to the ordinary War bonus, for if high prices continue after the War, the bonus must of necessity continue also.

ALL CHRISTMAS DINNER TICKETS TO BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY 10th.

We are asked to state that Clarkes' workers were on strike one week.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

OBJECTS: To secure the Parliamentary Vote for every Woman over 21, and to promote the Social and Industrial Welfare of Women.
Entrance Fee...1d. Subscription...1d. a Month

BRANCH REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD.

We had a very good meeting here on Tuesday afternoon, and were especially glad to see several members who have not been able to attend lately. Miss Mackay and Miss Bailey are thanked for taking charge of the Club on Monday, and Miss Mary Carr for helping with Paper selling on Saturday and Sunday. The Sunday meeting in Hyde Park was well attended.

Members are reminded that there will be a meeting at the Women's Hall this Sunday. The speakers will be Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Frazer Smith and Mr. Cyon.

Our sales are going up again. We want to sell at least 2,000 Christmas numbers in Bow!

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Dec. 4th—1,132. Miss Lynch 245, Miss O'Brien 209, Mrs. Bird 136, Miss Bennett 125, Mrs. Holloway 159, Miss Smyth 97, Mrs. Savoy 30, Mrs. Farrall 20, Special meeting 22. Bromley—per Mrs. Payne 94.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Secretary: MRS. DRAKE.

Members and friends have commenced doing up this hall, and it will mean a lot of work to get it done by Christmas; so please come along if you have any time or money to spare. We shall be glad of all the help we can get. Our speakers this week have been Miss Haughton and Mrs. McLeod, at two good indoor meetings. Two new members were made on Friday afternoon.

We have tickets on sale here for the Canning Town Social (3d. each) to be held in Fairbairn Hall, Barking Road, on Dec. 11th.

Do not forget to remind your friends that we have the First Annual Report on sale (2d. each), and everybody *must* have a copy. Do not forget your November subscriptions, they are not all in yet, and try to clear up all arrears by the end of the year!

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Dec. 4th.—263. Miss Manicom 72, Mrs. Shlette 57, Miss Dent 38, Miss H. Watts 34, Mrs. Holloway 38. Milk collections—Miss E. Lagsding & Miss Morley 19s. 10d., Miss K. Lagsding 6s. 8d., Miss Manicom 9s. 4½d.

Miss Lagsding & Miss Watts are thanked for toys, and we shall need a good many more.

Do not forget that we want to have a record sale of the *Dreadnought* Christmas number. Let Poplar try to sell more than any other branch this time!

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Hackney members are reminded that their children are invited to the Children's Party at Bow Baths, on January 6th. It will be a great help to the organiser if members will call at 175 Dalston Lane on Tuesday, December 14th, between 3 and 4.30 p.m., or on Thursday, December 16th, between 7.30 and 9 p.m., and get the tickets for their children. Members are also reminded that we have the meetings on these days, and these meetings should be better attended.

Please pay your subscriptions this month so as to have the full amount settled for the year.

Remember to get tickets for the E.L.F.S. Christmas Dinner on December 18th, price 6d., and for the New Year Party, on January 8th, price 3d.

Dreadnought sales—79. Miss Beamish 39, Miss Sands 20, Mrs. Bird 14, General Sales 6.

We must make a special effort to sell the *Dreadnought* Christmas number which comes out December 17th!

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin: 55 FIFE ROAD.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Thanks to all members who have helped to make the Social a success. Open-air meetings have had to be postponed owing to the weather. Please attend the Thursday meetings from 3.30 to 4.30. It is much cosier now at 55 Fife Road, and we need your subscriptions in order to make up the yearly accounts. The Children's Party tickets will soon be ready for the members' children, between four and 12 years of age. The Christmas Dinner takes place on Dec. 18th., at 400 Old Ford Road. Tickets 6d. each, now on sale.

Dreadnoughts sold—105. Mrs. Millo 18, Mrs. Holloway 36, Miss Beamish 46, in Shop 5.—Total 105.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.
Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT,
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Our branch has passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"We, the North London branch of the M.P.U., pledge ourselves to strongly resist any attempt to extend or alter the franchise which does not include women on equal terms with men; and we demand that the Government shall immediately pass into law a measure giving Votes to Women on the same terms as men."

FOUND in the Portman Rooms after the meeting on December 2nd, a pair of gold-rimmed glasses in case. Owner should apply to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow.

Sewing Machinist wants work.
Charwoman wants work.

(Continued from front page.)

Censor in an open sitting of the Reichstag. It is also the duty of the Party Executive to get the Party press to make a united and simultaneous attack on the censorship. The struggle against the censorship must further be extended to cover all limitations of freedom caused by the state of siege. At the time of the exceptional Laws against Socialists, the Party did not endure oppression in patience, but carried on the class War with methods adapted to the circumstances. The distribution of uncensored handbills and pamphlets, and the holding of unauthorised meetings would be easier to-day, through the machinery of the great organisations, than it was at the time of the Socialist Laws. There is no lack of ways and means, but apparently of the will.

Above all, it is essential to make use of the spontaneous movement of the people against the rise in prices, to organise and to lead it. It could thus be made into a powerful popular movement against high prices and for the shortening of the War, whereas, if the Party leaders stand idly on one side, the bitterness will dissipate itself in separate riots and excesses, which will do no good, but entail countless sacrifices.

The Party leaders will then be responsible, in that they did not fulfil the duty of the moment. The people are expecting the Party to put itself at the head of the demonstrations. Protest meetings in front of the Rathaus, and perhaps also outside the Government and Ministerial buildings would keep the mass of people from excesses in the market places and against individual shops, in which quite innocent people are often harmed. We know that on this line which we advocate, the party may come into conflict with the Government, but we think that we have voluntarily abandoned the class war for long enough.

Experience shows that the truce has only been used for weakening the working class and its organisation. We know that our position can only be strengthened by returning to the class war.

However, the most important cause of the rise in prices is the long duration of the War. With every week that it lasts, the economic position of the working class becomes more intolerable. The best safeguard against a further increase of prices would be an early termination of the War. We therefore demand that the Party leaders do all they can to bring about this end.

Judging from reports of the great economic associations, the attitude of the non-socialist press, and the statements of the Chancellor, there can be no doubt that the Government, and the classes which are behind it, have in view far-reaching plans of annexation:— Belgium, parts of France and Russia, and now too, a free way to Egypt and India. In all these plans there is no question of defending our own frontiers, but of national exploitation of large districts which up to now have been under foreign influence.

We therefore demand that the Party leaders oppose the plans of annexation of the Government and the classes which support it, with all publicity, and that they express the constantly increasing desire of the proletariat for peace. The steps which the Party Executive has taken up to the present are in no way sufficient. They must necessarily remain ineffective so long as the leaders, and the Party in Parliament keep to their present attitude, and their support of the Government's war policy. But if the Party leaders will decide to take energetic action against the rise in the cost of living, and in the cause of peace, they will then rally to their banner not only the mass of the Socialists and working people, but also great numbers of the lower middle class, and will become once more what they were before August 4th, 1914—representatives of the interests of the great masses of the people.

SIGNS OF POPULAR UNREST!

Other manifestations of the popular desire for peace have followed. A Swiss paper, the *Zurich Volksrecht* (People's Right), reports that on November 30th, a crowd of 10,000 men and women assembled in the Unter-den-Linden in Berlin at 8 p.m., and sang the Internationale and the Marseillaise. The people were dispersed by the mounted police and many arrests were made. The Reichstag was guarded by the military. The German Censor has prohibited newspaper reports of such occurrences.

Socialist Action in Reichstag.

The discontent in the German Socialist Party is not confined to the women. A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* states that the middle section of the Party in the Reichstag is now linking up with the more radical wing, Liebknecht, and that this has forced the Conservative wing of the party to give notice of the following question:—

"Is the Imperial Chancellor prepared to make a statement as to the conditions under which he would be inclined to enter into Peace negotiations?"

A Manifesto from France.

In France too there is unrest amongst the Socialists. The Berne *Daily Watch* publishes a manifesto issued by Meerheim and Bouderon, two of the French delegates to the International Socialist Conference held at Zimmerwald, in Switzerland, some time ago.

This manifesto protests against the "civil peace" which the Socialists have made with the Government and their opponents, and which they have tried to enforce upon the rank-and-file Socialists. It says that the "civil peace" justifies the assaults upon freedom of conscience, and veils the shameless exploitation of women and children and the workers in general, the waste, the piling up of huge war profits, and the consequent rise in the cost of living. It complains that hundreds of milliards of francs are being spent on the War, that millions of human beings are being killed, blinded, crippled, and that the toll of widows and orphans constantly increases. It continues:—

"Shall we be silent before these frightful prospects? They want to coerce us into silence. They demand the surrender of all human feeling of solidarity and brotherhood, and forbid us to stretch out the hand of brotherhood to our comrades in Germany, Austria, and all belligerent countries. Yet in the trenches, we have remembered and loved each other, thinking and speaking of peace.

"The only feeling they would permit to us is that of hatred. Are we to leave to our Governments and diplomats, who brought us into this War, the settling of terms of peace before the working classes have expressed their views and their wishes? If we agree to this, we working classes, and especially those of us who have offered our lives on the battlefield, must renounce our historic mission. Only through the workers' International and united and simultaneous action of the working classes of all countries can the rulers be prevented from deciding upon terms of peace which will be disastrous to the workers."

The Manifesto is issued to guilds, trade unions, and Socialist organisations and concludes with an appeal that these will communicate with the signatories with a view to action.

We learn from the Swiss paper *Volkrecht* that in the streets of Berlin, large red placards have been posted, announcing that the leaders of crowds which gather with intent to do violence against persons or property, will be punished with ten years' imprisonment; other persons with three years' and that armed resistence to civil and military authority, will be punished with death.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

BOW BATHS HALL,
Thursday, January 6th, 4 to 7 p.m.

POPLAR TOWN HALL,
Saturday, January 22nd, 4 to 7 p.m.

CANNING TOWN,
Arrangements announced later.

TO MOTHERS, when you are buying CHRISTMAS TOYS for your Children, REMEMBER to send some also to OUR CHILDREN IN THE EAST END!

TO CHILDREN who have plenty of TOYS—REMEMBER to send a CHRISTMAS PRESENT to the East End Children who have so few!

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, are still very urgent. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—

400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Wednesdays 4.15 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Miss D. Hollins 1.1.0, Mrs. Birch 1.0.0, Mrs. Payne (DREADNOUGHT fund) 1.0.0, Miss G. Lyle Smyth (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss & Mr. Löwy (monthly) 10.0, Miss D. Rock 10.0, Some Sympathisers 6.4½, Miss Gore Brown (monthly) 7.0, Mrs. Branch 5.0, Mrs. Richmond (DREADNOUGHT fund) 5.0, Collection Women's Hall 1.5, Miss D. E. Brown 1.0, A Herald Reader 0.6.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS—R. Burton Chadwick, Esq 5.0.0, Viscountess Acheson 5.0.0, Misses Collier (2.0.0 monthly) 4.0.0, Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly) 2.0.0, Alexander Brown, Esq 1.11.0, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Misses Fussell 1.0.0, Misses Mann (monthly) 1.0.0, Misses Gliksten (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss Deakin 1.0.0, per Miss Weir 1.0.0, Mrs. Flood 12.11, T. Stenhouse, Esq 12.0, Mrs. A. M. Burke 12.0, F. Tindle Anderson, Esq 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, per Miss Lettice Fox 6.7½, Miss I. Jones (2.0 weekly) 6.0, Four Northern Friends (monthly) 5.0, Miss A. S. Wilson 5.0, Mrs. Usherwood (monthly) 5.0, Miss Cunnington 5.0, Misses Saunderson & Bellamy (monthly) 5.0, Miss M. Renthe & Friend (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 5.0, Mrs. Green (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Gillies (monthly) 4.0, Mr. Gore Brown (monthly) 4.0, Mrs. Saxby 3.0, Miss Osmond (2.0 weekly) 4.0, A Lover of Babies 3.6, Miss Chappelow 2.6, Miss Burgess 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, F. J. Quartermain, Esq 2.0, Mrs. Sennett 2.0, Mrs. Marsh 2.0, Miss Balchin & Miss Melling 2.0, Mrs. Sparborough 1.6, A Covent Garden Market Woman 0.6.

TOWARDS CHRISTMAS PARTIES.—Mrs. Edwards 1.0.0, Miss Bennett (collected) 10.8½, Mrs. G. Lansbury 10.0, L.O.R. 10.0, Mrs. Crabb 7.8½, Employees of Comptons, Ltd., 4.2½, Mr. Jennings 2.0, Mr. Walker 1.0.

COLLECTIONS.—Portman Rooms Meeting 30.12.0, Toolroom L.S.A. 1.10.10½, Misses Lagsding and Morley 19.6½, Bow Milk 17.6½, Mrs. Gow 14.0, Miss Manicom 11.5½, Bromley Milk 12.6, Miss K. Lagsding 9.6, Englishwoman Exhibition 8.9, Employees of Messrs. Comptons, Ltd., 4.4, Miss O'Brien 3.3, Miss Lynch 2.9½, Poplar 1.1.

CLOTHING, ETC.—Mrs. Crosland Taylor, Mrs. Baillie, Miss E. Finke, Miss Russell, Miss Maude Smith, Miss Burgess, The Baby Lovers' Club, Miss Simmonds, Mrs. Hector, Miss Winifred Burne, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Cook, Miss Charlotte Blacklock.

FEEDING BOTTLES.—Mrs. Doring.

Come to - -

OUR TOY STALL

at the U.S.
CHRISTMAS SALE,
Central Hall, Westminster, Friday and Saturday, 10th and 11th December——THIS WEEK!

Admission--3 to 6 p.m. 6d.
6 to 10 p.m. Free.

YOU CAN BUY ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS THERE!

A DEBATE on Friday, Dec. 17, 7.30 p.m. The E.L.F.S. invites members of the Women's International League and others to a demonstration on Continuous Mediation by the Neutral Nations

Mr. John Scurr, the Rev. F. R. Swan, Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Edgar Lansbury, Mrs. Drake, Mr. A. A. Watts and others will take the parts of the various nations. Miss S. Pankhurst will preside.

This will be a most interesting debate, which no one should miss. ¤ Light refreshments will be provided after the debate, at a low charge. ¤ ¤ ¤

Furnished Room; suit business lady or gent.—Apply to Mrs. Hockham, 42 Ling Road, Canning Town.

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